

# Media Technical Advisory

## from the Virginia State Board of Elections

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

November 5, 2007

### **GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION AND FACT SHEET FOR MEDIA** **~ Upcoming Virginia Elections ~**

**What:** **General Election Information and Fact Sheet for Media on Virginia Elections**  
The information contained in this media technical advisory is to assist your news organizations in getting accurate general election information and inform you where you may access information from the Virginia State Board of Elections (SBE) office on Election Day.

**When:** **Tuesday, November 6, 2007**  
On Tuesday, November 6, elections for the House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia will be held. In addition, citizens will also cast votes in numerous local elections. *(For more information on the type and number of elections refer to the fact sheet at the end of this media technical advisory.)*

The polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Any voter who is in line to vote at 7:00 p.m. will be able to vote.

#### **Election Day**

**Results:** **Election Day Results**  
On November 6, Election Day, you may access election results at:  
<https://www.voterinfo.sbe.virginia.gov/election>

Election results will be posted as quickly as possible. However, please be aware that some localities have modified their reporting processes. Therefore, the time it takes for localities to submit their election results may be extended, increasing the time it takes for election results to be posted.

#### **Election Day**

**Briefings:** In anticipation for requests for interviews on Election Day and in order to accommodate your requests in a timely fashion, there will be two scheduled briefings from the State Board of Elections. Please keep in mind there may be

minimal progress reports available during these two scheduled briefings. However, you will have time to ask questions.

The two scheduled briefing times are as follows:

**State Board of Elections Afternoon Briefing  
2:00 p.m.**

State Board of Elections  
200 North Ninth Street, Suite 101  
Richmond, VA 23219

**State Board of Elections Evening Briefing  
8:00 p.m.**

State Board of Elections  
200 North Ninth Street, Suite 101  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Media**

**Contact:**

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**Immediately following this State Board of Elections media technical advisory is  
a fact sheet with general election information and statistics.**

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# State Board of Elections

## Fact Sheet

### THE 2007 ELECTION PROCESS AT A GLANCE

- **Registered voters:** There were 4,549,864 registered voters in Virginia as of the printing of the poll books on October 16, 2007. In 2006, there were 4,554,683 registered voters in Virginia.
- **Expected turnout:** In November 2003, the last time the Commonwealth was at this point in the election cycle with these offices up for election, turnout was 30.8 percent; in 1999, it was 36.1 percent.
- **Number of candidates:** Approximately 2,510 candidates will be on ballots. The breakdown is as follows:
  - Senate of Virginia: 67
  - House of Delegates: 145
  - Clerk of Court: 168
  - Commonwealth's attorney: 114
  - Sheriff: 209
  - Commissioner of Revenue: 130
  - Treasurer: 116
  - Soil and Water Conservation Director: 225
  - Chairman, Board of Supervisors: 9
  - Board of Supervisors At-Large: 32
  - County Board: 5
  - Board of Supervisors: 712
  - Chairman, School Board: 1
  - School Board At-Large: 38
  - School Board: 526
  - Mayor: 2
  - City Council: 5
  - Town Council: 6
- **Number of precincts statewide:** 2,498
- **The canvass process:** The canvassing process includes: 1) counting provisional ballots; 2) collecting vote summaries from the precincts; 3) rechecking the total number of votes cast compared with the reported number; and 4) certifying the results.
- **Provisional ballots:** These are paper ballots that are cast separately and sealed in a green envelope. They are not counted on Election Day; the local Electoral Board meets the day after the election to determine whether the provisional voter is qualified to vote. Qualified votes are then counted and included in the results. Provisional ballots are used:

- When the voter's name is not on the poll book, but the voter believes he or she is registered in that precinct and the registrar's office cannot be contacted to verify registration;
- When a voter who registered by mail on or after January 1, 2003 – but did not send a copy of his or her identification at the time – fails to show one of the federally required forms of ID when voting for the first time in a federal election. These include: a current and valid photo ID (for example a driver's license); a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck that shows name and address; or another government document that shows name and address (for example a voter card).
- When normal voting hours are extended by court order. (*Whenever voting hours are extended, people who vote under this extension vote by provisional ballot. This has never happened in Virginia.*)
- When a voter who was sent an absentee ballot appears at his polling place stating that his ballot was not received or has been lost, and no absentee ballot has yet been received from that voter. The provisional ballot is counted after the Electoral Board verifies that no absentee ballot from that voter was counted. (*This provision of the law was added in 2006.*)
- **State/federal certification:** The State Board of Elections certifies results for all state and federal offices and any offices shared by two or more localities. Each local electoral board meets in the days following the election to canvass results. Following the local canvass, the State Board of Elections collects vote summaries from the localities and rechecks the total number of votes cast compared with the reported number.

The board will meet to certify the November 6 elections on Monday, November 26. An apparent losing candidate has 10 days from that date to request a recount, putting this year's deadline at December 6.

Candidates requesting a recount in a statewide election must file a petition with the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond. Candidates requesting a recount for any other office must file a petition with the Circuit Court where he or she is registered to vote.

- **Local certification:** Local electoral boards certify all results for local offices. Each board meets in the days following the election to canvass and certify results. Any candidate requesting a recount must file a petition with the Circuit Court where he or she is registered to vote within 10 days after the results are certified. Candidates seeking a recount should check with their local general registrar or electoral board to determine the actual date of certification for these local offices.

- **General registrar directory:** For a complete directory of General Registrars go to:  
[http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/documents/GR\\_Directories/GR\\_by\\_Locality\\_for\\_the\\_Public.pdf](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/documents/GR_Directories/GR_by_Locality_for_the_Public.pdf) (A search through the directory can be done by clicking on the binoculars.)
- **Recounts:** In Virginia, there are no automatic recounts; only the losing candidate can ask for a recount; and only in cases where the difference between the apparent winning and losing candidate is 1 percent or is less than the total votes cast for the two candidates.
- **The recount court.** A recount court outlines all procedures and the manner in which the recount will be conducted for each type of voting equipment used in the Commonwealth. It is comprised of the chief judge of the Circuit Court where the recount petition was filed and two other judges appointed by the Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Virginia. Once all votes are recounted, the court will certify the candidate with the most votes as the winner.

**There is additional election information on the State Board of Elections  
web site at [www.SBE.Virginia.Gov](http://www.SBE.Virginia.Gov)**

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